Superspeciality Hospitals of ESI in Kerala

1922. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the construction of ESI superspeciality hospital at Asramam of Kollam in Kerala stand at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the approval for construction of the hospital has not been accorded, though the State Government agreed to provide all the requirements as stipulated by the ESI Corporation; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up a Superspeciality Cardiac Centre in the Kollam Hospital in Kerala. Building plans have been finalised. Commitment from the State Government is awaited for posting of Staff and bearing the expenditure of management of the Cardiology Unit, before issue of formal sanction.

Number of Labourers in Unorganised Sectors

1923. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the number of labourers engaged in bidi industry, building construction and other unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide basic working conditions for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the total employment in the unorganised sector is about 36.9 crore. From these about 1.7 crore

workers are engaged in construction activities. The estimated number of Beedi workers in the country is about 44 lakh.

(d) The Government has enacted the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 for improving the working and living conditions of the beedi and construction workers. The other labour laws i.e. the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act, 1979 enacted to protect the interests of workers are applicable to the workers in the unorganised sector as well.

Labour Reforms

1924. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the precautionary measures Government propose to take so that labour reforms may not turn to be insensitive to the social security of labourers themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Review of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms and to update the provisions, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws and steps initiated accordingly. While carrying out these amendments, Government is also aware of its commitment to maintain social security of labourers under various labour laws.